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PAGE 07/08

OCT 1 0 2006

Art Unit 2621 Serial No. 10/002,388 Reply to Office Action of: July 31, 2006 Attorney Docket No.: K35A1001

REMARKS

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 103

The examiner rejected claims 1-14 under USC §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application 2002/0031330A1 to Ono et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application 2002/0168178 to Rodriguez. This rejection should be withdrawn in view of the above amendments to the claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The examiner indicated that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 15. All of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

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PAGE 08/08

OCT 10 2006

Art Unit 2621 Serial No. 10/002,388 Reply to Office Action of: July 31, 2006 Attorney Docket No.: K35A1001

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the rejections. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any required fees associated with this Communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1209.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 10, 2006

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